

CLAIMS

1 1. A method of processing information with a system provided with at least two
2 processing devices coupled to a network, the method comprising:
3 receiving a definition of a job for processing information from a user of the system;
4 automatically checking whether processing devices belonging to a predetermined
5 set selected from at least two processing devices are suitable for performing the job;
6 presenting and indication for each processing device of the set, to the user via
7 presentation means, of whether the same is suitable for performing the job;
8 receiving a selection of a processing device belonging to the set; and
9 transmitting at least a part of the job to the selected processing device.

1 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least two processing devices are
2 printing devices.

1 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein if a processing device is not suitable
2 for performing the job, then a reason for this is indicated via the presentation means.

1 4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the indication of a reason that a
2 processing device is not suitable for performing the job is made in response to the said
3 processing device having been selected by the user.

1 5. The method according to claim 1, wherein a part of the defined job is presented
2 to the user.

1 6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said part of the job comprises a
2 setting of the job.

1 7. The method according to claim 5, wherein said part of the job is presented to
2 the user simultaneously with said indication the processing devices of the set via the
3 presentation means.

1 8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the selected processing device is
2 indicated on the presentation means.

1 9. The method according to claim 8, wherein after a confirmation of a selection of
2 a processing device, the job is passed to the selected processing device.

1 10. The method according to claim 9, wherein confirmatopm of the selection is
2 received from the user of the system.

1 11. The method according to claim 1, wherein a prediction as to what will be the
2 selected processing device is predicted by the system on the basis of a predetermined
3 criterion, after which the a change from the predicted selection can be received from the
4 user.

1 12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the criterion is a processing
2 property of the processing device.

1 13. The method according to claim 11, wherein the criterion is a distance
2 between the user and the processing device.

1 14. The method according to claim 11, wherein the criterion is availability of the
2 processing device.

1 15. The method according to claim 11, wheein the criterion is the processing cost.

1 16. The method according to claim 11, wherein the criterion is a previously
2 indicated personal preference of the user.

1 17. The method according to claim 1, further comprising indicating via the
2 presentation means separately whether at least one processing device belonging to the
3 set is suitable for performing the job.

1 18. The method of processing information with a system comprising one
2 processing device and presentation means, the method comprising:
3 receiving a definition of a job for processing information from a user of the system;
4 automatically checking whether the processing device is suitable for performing
5 the job; and

6 indicating, if the processing device is not suitable for performing the job, a reason
7 therefor via the presentation means.

1 19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the reason is indicated if the
2 processing device is allocated by a user of the system.

1 20. The method according to claim 18, wherein the processing device is a printing
2 device.

1 21. A system for processing information, the system comprising:
2 a network to which are coupled the following;
3 at least two processing devices;
4 defining means for defining a job for processing information;
5 research means for checking whether processing devices belonging to a
6 predetermined set selected from the at least two processing devices are suitable for
7 performing the defined job;
8 presentation means for presenting an indication, for each processing device of the
9 set, of whether the same is suitable for performing the defined job; and
10 selection means for selecting a processing device.

1 22. The system according to claim 21, further comprising first indicating means to
2 indicate, in the event that the research means has determined that a displayed
3 processing device is not suitable for performing the job, why said processing device is not
4 suitable for performing the job.

1 23. The system according to claim 22, wherein the presentation means indicate
2 why said processing device is not suitable.

1 24. The system according to claim 22, further comprising allocating means for
2 allocating a processing device, said allocating means being connected to the display
3 means in such manner that in response to the allocation of the processing device the
4 indicating means indicate why this processing device is not suitable.

1 25. The system according to claim 24, wherein the allocation means are
2 controllable by a user of the system.

1 26. The system according to claim 21, further comprising means for displaying a
2 part of the job.

1 27. The system according to claim 26, wherein said part comprises a setting of the
2 job.

1 28. The system according to claim 26, wherein the means for displaying a part of
2 the job is connected to the presentation means for presenting the said part to the user via
3 the said presentation means.

1 29. The system according to claim 26, wherein the presentation means is adapted
2 to present the said part of the job and the set of processing devices simultaneously.

1 30. The system according to claim 21, wherein the selection means are adapted
2 to make a selection for a processing device on the basis of a predetermined criterion.

1 31. The system according to claim 30, wherein the criterion is selected from the
2 group consisting of processing properties of the processing device, a distance between a
3 user and the processing device, availability of the processing device, printing costs and a
4 personal preference of the user.

1 32. The system according to claim 30, further comprising means with which a user
2 of the system can change the selection.

1 33. The system according to claim 21, further comprising confirmation means
2 connected to transmission means so that after confirmation of a selection of a processing
3 device the job is transmitted to said processing device.

1 34. The system according to claim 21, further comprising second indicating means
2 to indicate whether at least one processing device belonging to the set is suitable for
3 performing the job.

1 35. The system for processing information, the system comprising:
2 a processing device;
3 defining means for defining a job for processing information;

4 research means for checking whether the processing device is suitable for
5 performing the defined job; and

6 indicating means to indicate a reason, in the event that the research means show
7 that the processing device is not suitable for performing the job, why said processing
8 device is not suitable for performing the job.

1 36. The system according to claim 35, further comprising allocation means for
2 allocating the processing device in such manner that the indicating means indicate why
3 the processing device is not suitable if the same has been allocated by means of the
4 allocation means.

1 37. The system according to claim 35, wherein the processing device is a printing
2 device.

1 38. The computer program element comprising computer program code means for
2 causing a processor to perform the method according to claim 1.

1 39. The computer program element comprising computer program code means for
2 causing a processor to perform the method according to claim 18.